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A NEW METHOD OF MOUNTING FUNGI GROWN IN CULTURES FOR THE HERBARIUM.*

GEO. G. HEDGCOCK AND PERLEY SPAULDING.

The writers had occasion recently to mount specimens of some of the smaller fungi which are easily grown on artificial media for the purpose of preserving them for herbarium specimens. This so far as known has never been attempted and no such specimens have ever been seen which were satisfactorily put up for such purposes. All available methods which have been tried were so far as known considered, but none of them seemed to present a good solution of the difficulty. It was accordingly attempted to invent some method which would be easily and cheaply used on as extensive a scale as might be wanted by any one issuing sets of exsiccati, or wishing to have the imperfect fungi represented in an herbarium by pure cultures. It is believed that such a method has been discovered which is not only very satisfactory but is also cheap and easily used on any scale that it may be wished to prepare these fungi.

The fungi are separated and grown in pure cultures in Petri dishes upon a rather stiff agar agar made with some infusion suitable for the normal growth of the fungi. At the proper stage in their growth the plates are divided into square blocks of agar of a suitable size. Each of these blocks is placed right side up upon a stiff cardboard and allowed to dry down. The cardboards may be of almost any description, but it has been found that a good quality of index cards is most convenient for the purpose.

After the agar has become dry the mount is protected by pasting over the agar block a small, square or circular piece of cardboard which has been perforated with a gun-wad cutter, the perforation being of a size necessary to include the mounted block. These squares or circles of cardboard may be made of board of several thicknesses, varying from one to several millimeters, so that in selecting a protector the thickness may be adapted to the height of the filaments in the fungus.

This method of mounting has proven very convenient with specimens of Stilbum, Graphium, Ceratostomella, Hormodendron and other similar fungi; it is best, however, to poison the specimen after mounting, by spraying it with a strychnine solution.

Mississippi Valley Laboratory,
July 30, 1906.

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